

want us in Washington to implement change. Democrats are going to heed their call, Madam Speaker.

We have said from the beginning of our campaign for a new direction that one of the first things we will do when we take back the House is to pass a law that will authorize the government to negotiate lower drug prices. We intend to live up to that promise. The savings from that program can be used to help eliminate the infamous "doughnut hole" that millions of seniors have fallen into over the past few months.

While the President and his cronies are threatening to oppose such legislation, I think they would be better served to reconsider. It is time for us to take a long and hard look at the Medicare part D program and see where we can make some improvements. Democrats are not calling for repeal of this law, but we are calling for some changes, changes that the American voters clearly support. I hope that my Republican friends will join us as we work together to improve the Medicare program on behalf of America's seniors.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 11 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of power and mercy, You are Lord of all creation, yet You bend to every human need, and are always attentive to our prayer. Bless this Nation and the endeavors of Congress today. Give us freedom of spirit and health of mind and body that we may serve the people we represent and work to establish the values of Your kingdom here on Earth.

May your revealed presence in our midst carry over to the way we deal with one another in mutual respect, and confront the problems we face together. We pray, calling upon Your holy name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work together to provide effective immigration reform. I am pleased the Secure Fence Act of 2006 was signed into law. Securing our borders must be our first step to stop the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

One thing is clear, we must work to uphold the law. Congress must not provide a path to citizenship or any type of amnesty for those who have crossed our borders illegally. In 1986, Congress passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill that included amnesty.

This was a failure. It did not reduce illegal immigration or permanently solve any of the immigration problems we face today. Rather, it provided the incentive to come here legally by rewarding illegal aliens with amnesty.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to uphold and defend our laws in the Constitution. There is a solution to the problem of illegal immigration, but the answer is not to reward those who violated the laws of the United States.

#### 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on November 7, the American people voted resoundingly in favor of a Congress that would make implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission a top priority. They voted for a Democratic Congress.

For months, the Republican leadership in this body has sat on the 41 recommendations the 9/11 Commission gave for improving the security of our Nation. The Republican Congress did nothing when the expert bipartisan group released a scathing report card on the lack of progress that has been made and gave our government Ds and Fs for failing to take steps necessary to ensure we would never face another tragedy like 9/11.

Democrats believe it is unacceptable that 5 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks our Nation's first responders are still without interoperable radios and have planes flying across our country that are loaded with cargo that is rarely ever inspected.

Madam Speaker, Democrats know how important it is for us to make our Nation as safe as possible. That is why we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission next year so that we can be better prepared to protect our Nation against potential terrorist attack. I know, as I was a first responder for 11 years.

#### VETERANS ESTABLISH FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day, and it is appropriate to acknowledge today that because of our veterans, freedom and democracy are more widely spread than ever before.

Fifty million people have been liberated by our courageous troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last week was the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, confirming the success of President Ronald Reagan. From Estonia to Bulgaria, from Mongolia to Hungary, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from communism and are now free.

Earlier this year I visited Liberia, which is still celebrating the election of the first female African leader. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected after the dictator Charles Taylor fled at the urging of President Bush.

Today, America's veterans can be prouder than ever of their success as they are freeing oppressed people around the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM DESERVE OUR HELP

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, permanent trade relations for Vietnam was brought before the House with no committee hearings and under suspension of the rules. I spoke against the bill and demanded a rollcall vote, and last night the bill failed to get the necessary two-thirds, so it was defeated.

Now, the people of Vietnam deserve our help. The United States actually has a moral obligation of a long-standing nature with respect to Vietnam that we don't really need to elaborate on, because we understand what this Nation did to Vietnam. If you care about Vietnam, you should care to know that the permanent trade relations would have this effect, this bill. It would cause millions of peasants to be thrown off the land as agricultural supports are withdrawn.

Millions of workers losing their jobs at State enterprises wither in the face of foreign competition or downsize and